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Application No.: 09/600,744  
Filed: July 20, 2000  
1<sup>st</sup> Inventor: H. Shimizu  
For: Lyophilization Method for Sustained-Release Preparations  
Atty. Dkt. No. 2501 USOP

Art Unit: 1615  
Examiner: A. Pulliam  
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A. Harmon  
12/11/01

**AMENDMENT "A" and RESPONSE under 37 CFR 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 29, 2001 (Paper No. 4), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendment and remarks set forth below. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and an authorization to pay the \$180.00 Sec. 1.17(p) fee and the \$168.00 Sec. 1.16(b) fee accompany this amendment.

**AMENDMENT**

**In the Specification**

Please insert the following paragraph before the first paragraph on page 1 of the specification.

Page 1, paragraph 1 (NEW)

*B1* This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/JP99/00175, filed on January 20, 1999.

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